

FOR OUR YOUNG FOLKS.

A WONDERFUL LITTLE GIANT.

I know a little giant, no bigger than a tick. Who can wrench it with a fat man, and throw him on his back. His knotted little fingers, almost too small to try. Could turn any topos-turvy and hardly seem to try. To twist the nose, and pinch the toes, and fill one full of woe. Are jokes the most loved to play alike on friend and foe.

But he can do still greater things than make a bar of steel. He can split a stone in splinters, or break a bar of steel. He can shape the dripping caves-drops into a crystal spout. And elude the falling rain so hard, 'till all the white with foam. He can chain the rushing river, and plug the running spout. He can build a wall upon the lake and shut the water out.

But if you want to see this little giant out and run. Just build a tiny fire, or step out and fetch the sun.

—Harold W. Raymond, in St. Nicholas.

A SILVER SPOON.

The Story Which Married the Happiness of Two Little Girls.

Bessie and Edith were out in Bessie's kitchen cleaning the silver spoons. That was Bessie's regular Saturday work: it was an understood thing that every week on that day she was to polish up the spoons nicely.

To-day her mother had gone to visit her aunt, and her friend, Edith Ames, had come over to help her keep house. The two little girls had been rather dilly-dally about their household duties: they had had a good many important things to attend to. Then the dinner for Bessie's father, and the clearing away, had been a large undertaking. It was late in the afternoon now, and they had just begun on the spoons.

Bessie rubbed the silver soap on the spoons and Edith polished them up with the channels. Bessie was very polite about giving Edith the prettier part of the work. Suddenly Bessie took up a large, solid tablespoon and eyed it, and then Edith, impressively.

"There's a story about this spoon, and you couldn't guess what it is," said she, mysteriously.

"Honest, for I told Edith it started up at her. No, what is it?" said she.

"Well, my great-grandfather was married in this silver spoon."

"Why, Bessie Edith?"

"He was."

"I don't know what you mean."

"I should think you might, I said it plain enough. My great-grandfather was married in this silver spoon."

"Now you're joking, Bessie. It's too bad of you to try to make me believe such things."

"No, I'm not joking; he was, truly."

"Married in that spoon?"

"Yes."

"Why, he couldn't be married in a spoon; how could he? A man couldn't stand in a spoon. I don't believe a word of it."

"I don't care if you don't; he was. Bessie kept her face very sober. She loved Edith, but occasionally she did like to tease her a little. Edith was such an honest, matter-of-factly little body, and took teasing so seriously.

"What all Edith?" asked Mrs. Edith. "I thought she seemed odd."

"Oh, nothing, but occasionally, 'only she's mystified over my great-grandfather's getting married in that silver spoon. I'm going to let her puzzle over it awhile, then I'll tell her."

"You ought to be careful how you talk to Edith," said her mother. "She takes everything so in earnest."

"Oh, she'll get over it, mamma."

The next day Edith did not stop for Bessie, as usual, on her way to school; she kept aloof from her at recess, too, and never looked her way once in study hours.

Bessie looked indignant. "If she's a mind to show out like this about such a little thing, she can," thought she. And she was very sociable with the other girls, and returned Edith's neglect severely.

She grew inwardly uneasy as the days went on, and Edith's strange manner toward her changed. But she said nothing. There was good capacity for stubborn wrath in her childish heart.

"There isn't any sense in Edith's making a fuss over such a little thing," she kept saying to herself, and the words acted like kindlings to keep her wrath alive.

Both little girls were quite miserable; they glanced furtively at each other, and were very friendly and lively with the other girls, so neither should think the other cared. But no new friendship could make up for the lost sweetness of the old one. Both spent many a lonesome hour. Probably Edith was the unhappier of the two over the estrangement. She was more sensitive, and her real or imaginary cause of grievance was greater. She worried over it a great deal, and it seemed somehow to her that the culminating point of her trouble was reached. One afternoon, when Bessie went above her in the spelling-class. Poor Edith fancied that she looked glad, though that was probably nothing but fancy, and she broke down completely. She laid her head on her desk and cried, after the spelling-class was over.

Bessie was more troubled and indignant than ever at that.

"Now she don't like it 'cause I went above her," thought she, watching her; "and I don't see how I'm to blame for that."

The next morning Edith was not at school, nor the next. Then Bessie heard that she had the measles. If it had not been for this trouble between them she could have gone to see her, as she had had them herself.

This occurred to Edith's mother on the Saturday after the little girl was taken sick.

"Why, Edith, Bessie might come over and see you to-day," said she.

"She'd have the measles," said she.

Then, in poor Edith's weakness and sickness, the long pent grief came out. "No, I don't want her! I don't want her, mamma," she said, and began to cry.

"Why, what is the matter?" said her mother, wondering.

"Bessie told me something that wasn't true, mamma, she did! I don't like her; it don't seem as if it was Bessie, any more. I can't help it."

"What did she tell you?"

"She said she had her great-grandfather married in a big silver spoon she's got. Oh, dear!"

"Married in a silver spoon?"

"Yes, she said so, and it couldn't be true."

FOR SUNDAY READING.

LENENT THOUGHTS.

The Christmas songs have died away. The birthday bells are dumb. And we with our hearts to the service come. The loving Magi sought the new-born king, the lowly man whose own receive him not.

A King: yet palaces are barred. A Saviour: yet is spurned. Redeemer: Friend: yet haughty hearts. He walks the earth in humble guise. No crown is his to wear. The meek and lowly King of friends. And suffering ones his care.

In thought we follow where He leads. By desert, hill and sea. And paths of Galilee. We follow soon his patient feet. The way he takes to us. And feel again the shadow cast. The death's most precious night.

O Christ, whose birth we celebrate, Whose death we mourn to-day. Whose burial we seek with grief. We know not where we love Thee most. In cradle, cross or grave. But know we love thee well. O Christ, who save! —Lillian Grey, in Good Housekeeping.

International Sunday-School Lessons.

SECOND QUARTER.

April 15—The First Miracle. John 2:1-11

April 22—Jesus and Nicodemus. John 3:1-21

April 29—Sowing and Reaping. John 4:3-24

May 6—The Notman's Son. John 4:45-54

May 13—Jesus Feeding Five Thousand. John 6:1-14

May 20—The Bread of Life. John 6:25-35

May 27—Jesus and Abraham. John 8:12-20

June 3—The Good Shepherd. John 10:1-10

June 10—The Good Shepherd. John 10:11-18

June 17—The Good Shepherd. John 10:19-21

June 24—The Good Shepherd. John 10:22-25

June 30—The Good Shepherd. John 10:26-28

July 7—The Good Shepherd. John 10:29-31

July 14—The Good Shepherd. John 10:32-34

July 21—The Good Shepherd. John 10:35-37

July 28—The Good Shepherd. John 10:38-40

August 4—The Good Shepherd. John 10:41-43

August 11—The Good Shepherd. John 10:44-46

August 18—The Good Shepherd. John 10:47-49

August 25—The Good Shepherd. John 10:50-52

September 1—The Good Shepherd. John 10:53-55

September 8—The Good Shepherd. John 10:56-58

September 15—The Good Shepherd. John 10:59-61

September 22—The Good Shepherd. John 10:62-64

September 29—The Good Shepherd. John 10:65-67

October 6—The Good Shepherd. John 10:68-70

October 13—The Good Shepherd. John 10:71-73

October 20—The Good Shepherd. John 10:74-76

October 27—The Good Shepherd. John 10:77-79

November 3—The Good Shepherd. John 10:80-82

November 10—The Good Shepherd. John 10:83-85

November 17—The Good Shepherd. John 10:86-88

November 24—The Good Shepherd. John 10:89-91

December 1—The Good Shepherd. John 10:92-94

December 8—The Good Shepherd. John 10:95-97

December 15—The Good Shepherd. John 10:98-100

December 22—The Good Shepherd. John 10:101-103

December 29—The Good Shepherd. John 10:104-106

January 5—The Good Shepherd. John 10:107-109

January 12—The Good Shepherd. John 10:110-112

January 19—The Good Shepherd. John 10:113-115

January 26—The Good Shepherd. John 10:116-118

February 2—The Good Shepherd. John 10:119-121

February 9—The Good Shepherd. John 10:122-124

February 16—The Good Shepherd. John 10:125-127

February 23—The Good Shepherd. John 10:128-130

February 29—The Good Shepherd. John 10:131-133

March 6—The Good Shepherd. John 10:134-136

March 13—The Good Shepherd. John 10:137-139

March 20—The Good Shepherd. John 10:140-142

March 27—The Good Shepherd. John 10:143-145

April 3—The Good Shepherd. John 10:146-148

April 10—The Good Shepherd. John 10:149-151

April 17—The Good Shepherd. John 10:152-154

April 24—The Good Shepherd. John 10:155-157

April 30—The Good Shepherd. John 10:158-160

May 7—The Good Shepherd. John 10:161-163

May 14—The Good Shepherd. John 10:164-166

May 21—The Good Shepherd. John 10:167-169

May 28—The Good Shepherd. John 10:170-172

June 4—The Good Shepherd. John 10:173-175

June 11—The Good Shepherd. John 10:176-178

June 18—The Good Shepherd. John 10:179-181

June 25—The Good Shepherd. John 10:182-184

July 2—The Good Shepherd. John 10:185-187

July 9—The Good Shepherd. John 10:188-190

July 16—The Good Shepherd. John 10:191-193

July 23—The Good Shepherd. John 10:194-196

July 30—The Good Shepherd. John 10:197-199

August 6—The Good Shepherd. John 10:200-202

August 13—The Good Shepherd. John 10:203-205

August 20—The Good Shepherd. John 10:206-208

August 27—The Good Shepherd. John 10:209-211

September 3—The Good Shepherd. John 10:212-214

September 10—The Good Shepherd. John 10:215-217

September 17—The Good Shepherd. John 10:218-220

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October 21—The Good Shepherd. John 10:233-235

October 28—The Good Shepherd. John 10:236-238

November 4—The Good Shepherd. John 10:239-241

November 11—The Good Shepherd. John 10:242-244

November 18—The Good Shepherd. John 10:245-247

November 25—The Good Shepherd. John 10:248-250

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December 23—The Good Shepherd. John 10:419-421

December 30—The Good Shepherd. John 10:422-424

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